

The deplorable Condition of the Reduced Men, Non-Commission Officers, Trumpets, and Troopers, discharged out of His Majesty's several Regiments of Light-Horse, which served his Majesty in the Reducing of Ireland, and in the Wars in the Low Countreys. Most humbly offered to the Consideration of the Honorable the House of Commons, now sitting at Westminster.

Shewing,

THAT with all submission they presumed the last Session of Parliament to lay before this Honorable House their humble Petitions, for Relief against their respective Officers, who had not complied with his Majesties Orders made and declared in favour and for their advantage. And that (on examining the merit of their Complaints, which proving numerous against their Officers, and matters of greater Moment and more National Concerns intervening) this Honorable House, in tender compassion to the great Necessities of the op-prest, in the close of the last Session, ordered a select Committee, to draw up an humble Address to his Majesty on their behalf, That Commissioners might be particularly appointed, to hear, examine, and relieve their particular Complaints therein. Which Address had the Concurrence of this Honorable House; but on an Information that his Majesty intended to nominate and im-power Commissioners to that purpose, the same was not presented to his Majesty, but ordered to lie on the Board of this Honorable House.

That there having been no such Commissioners appointed, as ever the reduced and discharged Men could be informed of, their Necessities are every day grown more miserable for want of Relief therein. And it is too obvious to the World, that the penury and want of too many of them, (after so many years spent in his Majesties Service,) hath rendred them the derision of their Enemies, and reduced their Famylies to a starving condition: Whilſt the impatience of too many (not accustomed to such necessity's) to support themselves, have run headlong (by indirect ways) to fill the Goals as Offenders, and too often brought themselves to shameful Punishments, with an Odium to their Famylies, and dishonour to their station.

And it is presumed, with all submission, that it is the intent and desire of his Majesty, that all those that are discharged and reduced out of his several Regiments of Light Horse, and out of his Service, should be cleared of all their Arrears of Pay respectively, and not that they should be reduced to such misery for want thereof. Altho they are not likely to obtain the same, the reduced and discharged Men, bcing not able to prosecute their Claims against their Officers at Common Law, or in a capacity to pay the Charges and Fees on Committees, unclis this Honorable House, in your mature Wsdoms, do take such care that there may be a method had where the reduced and discharged men may have liberty to give their Officers a full Charge of their Pay due, and which their Officers must discharge by money paid, debts discharged, and such Regimentary Deductions as by Law allowed, according to the proportion of their respective Services: and that their Officers may be compelled to pay what shall appear to be to them respectively due thereon. And were such method taken, it would be a means not only to prevent the troubles that do and may daily atttend this Honorable House on the account of the Army in general, but it would leave this Honorable House at liberty to prosecute the Publick Affairs of the Kingdom with more ease and freedom.

Their C A S E.

I. That altho his Majesty by his most gracious Orders since the happy conclusion of the Peace, hath directed, That all Troopers reduced (out of his several Regiments of Light Horse) and had served in the same 12 months) should have their Horses and Accoutraments with them, (or their value;) Yet their Officers have detained many of their Horses and Accoutraments, without any manner of satisfaction; altho several brought their Horses into the Service, and are charged out of their bare Subſtance with between 20 and 30l. per man, towards Horses in Ireland, and in the Low Countreys.

II. That the Troopers reduced, and discharged men which served in Ireland, have not had plenary Accounts and Clearance of their Arrears of Pay in Ireland, or any account of their off-reckonings, as by his Majesties Orders have been immediately directed; altho the Colonels and Commanders in Chief of each Regiment, had long since an account thereof, and clearance to a small Sum by them pretended in the Kings hand) from Sept. 1. 1689. to April the 1st. 1692.

III. That in Anno 1692, the Troopers which served in Ireland receiv'd 2l. 5s. and the Corporals and Trumpets 2l. 10s. per man, as a Bounty, from her late Majesty of blessed memory, which is since charged as so much payd in part of Arrears of Subſtance in Ireland.

IV. That with all submission, they presume, their faithful Services in Ireland and Flanders may entitle them to an equal share of his Majesties Bounty and Favour, as well as the Benefit of their Pay, according to establishment with those Regiments of Light Horse that have continued in England, and have not been harrazed with the Fagittages of War. But, to their great loss, they have found they lost 2s. 10d. out of every 20s. they received in Flanders; and that their Officers have stopt out of their Subſtance, in the Campaigns in the years 1693, 94, 95, & 96, for Mounting Money; with several other Regimentary Deductions for Tents, Tent Equipage, &c. and 10d. or 12d. per Month for Clerks Fees, charge of Money, and other Contingencies, the whole Charge amounting to between 8l. and 10l. a Man per Annum, out of their immediate Subſtance, (which was always esteemed) and humbly presumed) directed by Act of Parliament to be paid without any deductions. And that their Accompts of their Service in in Ireland are loaded with as large Deductions, altho in other termes; and those Regimentary Deductions are generally laid upon Private Men, Non-Commission Officers and Trumpets, the Officers and their Servants going free (altho they alſt times took the first, and moſt times largest ſhare,) to the great Impoveriſhing the Troopers, but Enriching the Officers, who claim, poſſeſſ, and enjoy, all Money due to dead, abſent, or discharged Men; whilſt the Widows, Orphans, and Relations of ſuch, and who have right to receive the ſame, are reduced to great Penury and VVant, and are ſo likely to continue, unless relieved by this Honorable Houſe; the Officers declaring they wiſt pay none but what they are directed to pay by your Honourſ.

That with all submission it is presumed, it may not be unworthy the Consideration of this Honorable Houſe to obſerve what methods have been uſed on all occasions to ſtop Money out of the real Subſtance due to the Troopers (contrary to Act of Parliament) &c. And how remiſs and unwilling they are to comply and ſhew obedience to his Majesties Orders; especially thoſe on the Reducing the Army, and for the clearing the Irish Arrears, and off-reckonings, which have not been complied with.

All which is humbly submitted, &c.

The GAGE or the
TROOPERS who served
in Ireland and Flanders.